

study for the Southwest Washington community. The continuing Education Department provides community classes and business training classes, helping people learn new skills at any age. The workforce training and worker retraining courses teach essential job skills. These skills help the unemployed find new work and they help those facing the possibility of layoffs enhance their existing skills. Centralia also offers farm study and ranch and record keeping study to help our agricultural leaders of today and tomorrow.

One of Centralia's most innovative programs targets gifted high school students. Participation in their "Running Start" program allows 11th and 12th grade students to get the opportunity to take college level classes for both high school and college credit. Not only does this program provide challenges to students to achieve, but it allows them to do so free of charge. Through school district and State payment plans, Centralia ensures that all students get an equal chance to participate.

In addition to providing financial support, Centralia offers other areas to expand access to higher education. Their comprehensive distance learning campaign offers students all of the benefits of attending college, even if they cannot physically attend. From correspondence courses to videotape lectures or telecourses, to on-line classes, to interactive video programs, Centralia will find a way to teach eager students, regardless of their location.

For the 3,000 students enrolled, Centralia's serious educational commitment translates into results. Recently, for example, 9 of the 11 Centralia graduates who interviewed at the Intel company earned positions on the staff. Recruiters of such technology firms regularly visit Centralia, saying they always look forward to seeing the high quality of candidates who come from that college. They go on to say that the students' capability is a reflection of both a high quality college and a high quality electronics department. As we move into the 21st Century, the superiority of Centralia's technology education can only serve to benefit both students and employers.

Another benefit to students emphasized by the Centralia administration, faculty, and staff is diversity. Recognizing the need for students to interact with people of different cultures and backgrounds, Centralia strives to incorporate diversity into its student body and programs wherever possible. The college knows that exposing its students to diverse ideas and people will enhance their educational experience. In today's increasingly close-knit and diverse world, bringing together people from different backgrounds is a necessity, not a luxury.

Mr. Speaker, education is a necessity for all Americans. It prepares young people to face the challenge of the future, and makes the lives of older

Americans more fulfilling. For the past 75 years, Centralia College has prepared its students to be the leaders of tomorrow, and, for that, we all owe Centralia College our gratitude and our congratulations.

I urge my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me today in paying special tribute to this outstanding college, and may its next 75 years of service be every bit as successful as the first.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915-1923

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with those who are taking a few minutes today to remember and pay tribute to those Armenians who lost their lives and national identity during one of history's most tragic examples of persecution and intolerance, the Armenian genocide of 1915 to 1923.

Many Armenians in America, particularly in Indiana, are the children or grandchildren of survivors. In Fort Wayne, we do not have very many Armenians, to be precise, one, sometimes two. But my friend Zohrab Taizan is a classic example of many of the Armenians in America whose family was chased out of Turkey and down into Lebanon, who moved around, having, as a child, to live in a tent, because he saw his family members slaughtered and chased from their homeland; coming over to America where they had a chance to succeed with an American dream, as Armenians actually throughout world history who have been persecuted because of their successes as merchants, and often their very success has led to persecution in many lands that they have been over time. He came to America to the Indiana Institute of Technology, like many other foreign students who came in, learned engineering, and became a very successful engineer in our hometown.

I first saw a slide presentation on the facts of this terrible genocide about 20 years ago when I was a young businessman in Fort Wayne belonging to the Rotary Club. Mr. Zohrab Taizan made a presentation that will forever be burned into my mind about the terrible persecution; not just discrimination and not just random persecution, but the attempt to exterminate an entire people.

The facts, as we have heard a number of times, but I think it is important that we have these burned into our head, on April 24, that is the particular day we commemorate the tragedy, because it marks the beginning of the persecution and ethnic cleansing by the Ottoman Turks.

On April 24, 1915, Armenian political, intellectual, and religious were arrested, forcibly moved from their homeland and killed. The brutality continued against the Armenian people

as families were uprooted from their homes and marched to concentration camps in the desert where they would eventually starve to death.

By 1923, the religious and ideological persecution by the Ottoman Turks resulted in the murder of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children and the displacement of an additional 500,000 Armenians. In our lifetime, we have witnessed the brutality and savagery of genocide by despotic regimes seeking to deny people of human rights and religious freedoms. That is Stalin against the Russians, Hitler against the Jews, Mao Tse-tung against the Chinese, Pol Pot against the Cambodians, and Mobutu against the Rwandans.

But genocide has devastating consequences on society as a whole because of the problems created by uprooting entire populations. The survivors become the ones who carry the memory of suffering and the realization that their loved ones are gone. They are the ones who no longer have a home and may feel ideological and spiritual abandonment.

Part of the healing process for Armenian survivors and families of survivors involves the acknowledgment of the atrocity and the admission of wrongdoing by those doing the persecution. It is only through acknowledgment and forgiveness that it is possible to move past the history of the genocide and other sins.

Unfortunately, those responsible for ordering the systematic removal of the Armenians were never brought to justice and the Armenian genocide became a dark moment in history, as we heard earlier, quoted by Hitler and others, who then proceeded to use it as an example to commit genocide on others, to be slowly forgotten by those in America and the international community.

It is important that we remember this tragic event and show strong leadership by denouncing the persecution of people due to their differences in political and religious ideology. By establishing a continuing discourse, we are acknowledging the tragedies of the past and remembering those awful moments in history so they will not be repeated.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues, those Members who have supported this resolution, as well as all the Armenian organizations in this country and throughout the world who have worked so hard to establish an understanding for their remembrance.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I join my other colleagues today to discuss one of the greatest unrecognized tragedies